California GARDEN

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S
GARDEN MAGAZINE SINCE 1909

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DECEMBER 1961 - JANUARY 1962
VOL. 52, NO. 6

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A single stroke of the pen separates the words urban and urbane, yet in meaning they are a world apart. Urban, characteristic of life in city or town; urbane, evincing the polish and suavity of social life in large cities. *Polish* and *suavity*. The gulf is cultural and aesthetic, and deep, because taste is difficult to define and impossible to legislate. Yet, in essence, it is this chasm that San Diego hopes to bridge with its Centre City plan.

The hope becomes audible in the talk of theater and convention hall, of a setting for concerts and opera, in the certainty that this massive injection will revitalize downtown San Diego, in the very choice and spelling of the name. Centre City will become the hub of San Diego life, both governmental and cultural, and the image by which this city will be known throughout the world. It may someday rank with Balboa Park and Mission Bay as a tourist attraction. It may, and it may not.

The difference will lie in the amount of attention paid to the amenities. Amenities, another difficult word in somewhat the same class as taste. Therein lies the real problem: the determination of failure or success will arise in an area of feeling, of emotional reaction, of intangibles. Yet decisions are in the hands of people who, rightly enough, think of dollars and cents first; rightly enough because there could be no Centre City without close attention to dollars and cents.

It is particularly true today that San Diego has a "businessman" Council. It is also apparent that this Council is determined to run the city, even to the point of overriding the advice of seasoned department heads and commissioners. Can this dollar-oriented group be convinced that amenities will show a profit? Can human scale, open space, and greenery be made attractive on a business basis? Some of the new shopping centers in San Diego demonstrate that they can. Space limitations in the high-priced downtown area, which may be used as an excuse for slighting the amenities, should more properly become a challenge, a spur toward new solutions. One obvious way to gain space is to put parking underground.

There are many individuals and organizations with a primary interest in seeing San Diego develop attractively. They should watch Centre City plans carefully. They should scrutinize the buildings, but also the spaces between. They should look for the garden court, the inviting bench, the fountain, the gracious, spacious approach to a theater lobby, the long view as well as the tall view, the surprise. Monumental buildings are urban; for urbanity see to the human touches.

* * *

In spite of widespread agreement that San Clemente Canyon should become a natural park, plans in the mill now are predicated on the belief that people no longer like to walk. Nevertheless, one of man's natural positions is upright, forked end down.

Through roads and the absence of nature trails will only encourage us to whiz past what deserves to be explored. San Clemente Canyon supplies an opportunity to promote physical fitness and scientific curiosity, both of which America presumably needs.

* * *

It comes as no surprise that not everyone is ready for the James Hubbell era in garden sculpture (as shown in our Oct.-Nov. issue). Witness one reader who remarked, "If I found that thing in *my* garden, I'd spray it."

* * *

Even if you couldn't afford a lawn, would you tolerate a billboard in your front yard? Freeways are the front yard of the city. On December 20, the Planning Commission will hold a second hearing on a Sign Control Ordinance. The ordinance as proposed would eliminate billboards only on a few stretches of freeway with park-like landscaping (for the foreseeable future, that means only Balboa Park). San Diego deserves better; unlandscaped does not have to mean unattractive.

Your opinion will help the Commission toward a wise decision. Let them hear from you—and be there!

* * *

Dorothy Behrends' book ***Begonias Slanted Toward the Beginner*** has gone into a second edition and Frank Quintana's Country Squire line of fertilizers is in the stores. The rest of us will have to settle for another chance in a new year. May it be a good one for you.

George La Pointe

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

DECEMBER, 1961—
JANUARY, 1962
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COVER — A fanciful evocation of the Christmas season, this tree blends the traditional icicles, star, ropes of bright beads and doves of peace with the stark, white-painted limbs of a spent bloom-stalk of a Century plant.

Designer Larry Hager used a white and gold color scheme against a black and gold wall.

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GARDEN CLUBS NOTICE

Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs. Membership fee: $10. Groups holding meetings in the Floral Building contribute an additional $15 to the building maintenance fund.

OTHER GARDEN CLUBS

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Fourth Mon., Barbour Hall, University & Pershing 8:00 p.m.
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Third Mon., Community House, La Jolla, 7:30 p.m.
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First Fri., Vista Recreation Center, 1:30 p.m.
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Second Tuesday, Linda Vista Recreation Center, 8:00 p.m.
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Garden Clubs: Help us to help you!
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Commentary

Why Real Estate Men Should Take Up Painting

By Ben Ehrich

THE WORLD is full of strange bedfellows. Even stranger (funnier) are the people who don't know to whom they're related. It is not a question of killing the goose that lays the golden egg but of not even knowing that the goose is in town.

Other than in the cosmic realm it may seem odd to consider the artist and the real estate broker as brothers. or even as two groups that have anything to offer each other. But by holding the crystal ball up to the *light* there can be seen, and not too dimly, a mutually beneficial relationship which is worth more than a casual flicker.

Traditionally, the artist in America is—let's face it—surplus. In any study of national resources there is no mention made of him. Columns of type are allotted to such items as kilowatt-hours, oil in the ground, steel production, board feet of lumber, national debt and automotive output. The artist is accorded a position closely akin to an air plant—dangling in space, a kind of precarious moss on the tree of life. He has very little cash value. I doubt if he would even be considered a frozen asset.

On the other side of the hill there is the real estate man. No dreamer, but a practical sort of person who has developed a mental tic which might be diagnosed as "the square foot syn-

drome." Acting as though he were descended from an ancient and noble tribe of sardines, he is anxious to pack 'em in tight, seal the can and leave the key outside. It makes a nice deal. Besides, he is supported in his enterprise by recognized financial institutions — banks, insurance companies, building and loan associations and oftentimes the Federal government. Thus the average home buyer finds himself a captive audience as he prepares to make the largest single purchase of his life.

Now what can these two absolutely different points of view yield to each other? It is just that historically in our country, wherever the artist has gone to live (often as pioneer), there follow the retired rich. This latter group are not fools. They are wealthy, they are traveled, they can buy what they want. And what they want is the same thing that the artist has always sought: a more congenial way of life, an indigenous architecture and a beautiful, left-alone landscape. For example, Provincetown, Taos, Big Sur, New Hope, Santa Fe, Carmel, La Jolla. Of course the inevitable happens. Sooner or later the rest of the crowd, knowing a good thing after someone else has discovered it, arrives. The invasion causes the community to go the way of all flesh as a tidal wave of developers floods the area and leaves in its wake tasteless buildings and a defiled landscape.

What special qualities did the artist bring to these communities which has distinguished them from the average? Primarily, it is a basic attitude toward the land. The artist, whose attention is constantly focused on the aesthetic elements of our world, sees the earth with an appreciative eye. He does not wish to change the essential character of a place.

If it be desert with its predominant arid vegetation he is content to live with it on its own terms; he does not seek to transform it with large grassy lawns and imported plant material. The constant frenzy of bringing in unsuitable vegetation (which has become so accepted by most of us) is as strange in its own way as if we tried to fill the sky with birds which belong in another country.

Likewise, if the terrain is hilly, he does not quest for earth-moving machinery to level it off. Behind these æsthetic judgments lies good common sense. Bulldozed hills present problems of erosion, drainage and slipping. In dry climates exotic plants claim precious water. Over-all is the desire to be in unison with the surroundings, keeping the whole composition as harmonious as possible.

The artist's more individual approach to life allows for variations which are implied by the setting. He embraces the irregularities rather than wanting to standardize the picture. His concern for line, form and color, and his study of natural materials, leads him to build an indigenous structure in a style which is most appropriate to climate and locale. His regard for the quality and movement of light guides him in orienting a building so that it may best take advantage of sunlight, view and wind. Savoring the unrehearsed quality of the natural landscape, he does not look upon trees as a natural enemy of man. He is essentially a conservationist.

It is not too far-fetched to hope that in the near future the artist will be sought out in an advisory capacity to contribute his ideas to our new developments. This is especially pertinent in regard to our highway program where the engineer with his T-square plots unrelieved ugliness across the country. Separated one-way roads following natural contours are in many instances safer and more economical than the great multi-laned highways which often eat up valuable and productive farm land.

WHILE it is difficult and at times unfeasible to revamp existing communities, it is still not too late to use our best knowledge in new situations rather than repeating previous mistakes over and over. Each new house, each new road becomes a permanent fixture on the land. With more than one million new homes going up each year, we must approach the task with our finest talents, for there is never a second chance. From past experience we know that the crucial decisions must be made at the beginning. Our buildings and our highways are like indelible ink on the landscape—they cannot be erased.

If the word *value* might be reappraised and considered not only in conventional terms of dollars but in broader terms of ultimate values, there is a possibility that a whole new concept and approach could give birth to more satisfying living arrangements. There can be no profit in any true sense of the word by continuing to stencil bigger and better slums across the country. That people are human, and therefore have human needs, may yet turn out to be the greatest discovery of our age.

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DANGER STALKS THE FOREST ON WEEKENDS

Forest fires menace most on weekends. More people are in the forest—and there's more chance for *man-caused* fires to flare; more chance for destruction—and terror!

It's a tragic and shameful fact that nine out of ten forest fires are *man-caused*—too often by the carelessness of a "weekender" who thoughtlessly flips away a smoke or a glowing match.

So when you're in the forest over a weekend—or on a Sunday drive or a picnic—be extra careful. Always follow Smokey Bear's rules:

Break matches—crush smokes—be SURE all fires are out!

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California Garden

DECEMBER 1961 - JANUARY 1962

℞ for Fire Prevention: a Lesson from Bel Air

SAN DIEGANS should take a long, hard look at the calamity which has fallen upon the Bel Air section of Los Angeles. Estimates of $50 million in losses seem monumental, but dollars and human effort will never restore the area to its former condition: the damage is irreparable and monetary evaluations are ridiculous. No amount of money can replace acres and years of growth.

Residents of Bel Air had been warned by increases in insurance rates, by requests to clear brush, and by refusals to write insurance in specified areas. Individuals were almost helpless because the problem required mass action, and the mass seemed inured to the danger. Strangely enough, the only solutions offered were destructive. Scrape the earth bare, and destroy the native growth which made the area attractive; prevent fires, perhaps, but open the flood gates for winter rains.

San Diego doesn't have the same problem; it doesn't have so much brush; it isn't so mountainous; it is somewhat more densely populated. But it is dry! Our canyons are not so deep, nor so shrubby, but they are covered with tinder-dry vegetation. We have had several instances of grass and brush fires, notably along the south slope of Mission Valley. We have also had warnings of another nature; fire insurance rates have risen steadily for an increase of approximately 30 per cent over the past ten years. This steady rise has been the direct result of "loss experience."

Clearing away brush and dry vegetation is not the answer to our problem, but water in liberal quantities is. This solution has two important facets, cost and distribution.

Most of us landscape and irrigate the front, sides, and back of our lots, but we ignore the canyon slope to the rear, if we have one. We plant a row of myoporum across the rear of our pad, block off the view, and forget the desolation and danger of a potential asset. Irrigating that canyon is good fire insurance and the rate is surprisingly low.

The average residential lot in San Diego has from 5000 to 6500 square feet of surface, and the house probably blocks out about 1000 square feet. If the water bill is $5.00 per month ($10.00 per bill) and a family of three uses 150 gallons of water per day, or 4500 gallons per month, inside the house, the amount used for irrigation would be 6580 gallons (881 cubic feet) or an amount equal to 2.11 inches of rainfall per month on a surface of 5000 square feet.

If a home owner is fortunate enough to have an additional 5000 square feet of canyon slope to the rear of his lot, the same 2.11 inches of rainfall per month would cost him an additional $2.97 and his water bill (bi-monthly) would jump from about $10.00 to $16.00. If the basic water bill were higher, the extra water would cost even less.

Water is one of the cheapest commodities and certainly one of the best investments available to the house owner. The Bel Air residents should have been using more of it. Native brush and shrubs lured them to build on problem lots in inaccessible areas, but they neglected their natural asset and it destroyed them.

Wherever extra land is available in San Diego, residents should protect and encourage natural growth with ample irrigation. Neighboring home owners should do even more. The extra irrigation will support ornamental plantings even better than it will an occasional native shrub. Ground cover conserves moisture, and water needn't be wasted on bare ground. Neighborhood teams can systematically plant any irrigated hillside.

Mesembryanthemum (the more colorful varieties of ice plant) with one extra inch, not two, of consistent rainfall per month would change San Diego canyons into splashes of iridescent color. Poinsettias, hibiscus, lantana, and oleanders would run riot. Even good old "pickleweed" — if it is watered — will clothe a slope with an emerald cloak of such rare beauty as to gladden the hearts of the Irish. (Look at some of the banks along Cabrillo Freeway.) How lovely San Diego could be, if individual residents would make an individual effort to cover the slopes with color and the canyon floors with trees. Eucalyptus and Aleppo Pine, for instance, will thrive on 2.11 inches of rainfall per month (artificial or natural), and exist on one inch, but nothing can withstand searing droughts without help.

THE COST of the water is not prohibitive and the problem of distribution is not impossible of solution. One hundred extra feet of garden hose and a few feet of pipe to support a revolving sprinkler head, plus a small amount of do-it-yourself effort, and the distribution problem is reduced to a watering routine. With a capital investment of $10 or $15 and a budget of $3 per month for extra water, you are in business. And if your sprinkler throws water a few feet over on your neighbor's land, don't worry. That's San Diego too.

THOS. L. CRIST

PRE - FREEWAY

The line of posts barely discernible at the foot of the slope marks the present location of Cabrillo Freeway, but the garden remains much the same. Its chief glories are still the magnificent trees.

First in a series on
outstanding San Diego
area gardens

THE MARSTON GARDEN

BY ALICE W. HEYNEMAN

AT 3525 Seventh Avenue, bordering Balboa Park, is one of the oldest gardens in San Diego. Beloved by older residents, it may be unsuspected by many of the new. Here, in 1905, on a slope east of Seventh Avenue and north of Upas Street, Mr. George W. Marston, with Irving Gill, architect, built a charming and dignified residence for his family. It was something of a hill-top house, since the land dropped off on the north and east in a steep to moderate gradient to the canyon floors.

At first the house stood alone in the midst of the ten acres of brush and native shrubs. The nearest access from a city street was at Sixth and Upas, but Mr. Marston built a road from there, graded the land, and set about establishing a garden. The ten acres was reduced to four when two additional homes were built on the northern portion, but so skillfully were these houses blocked out by trees and flower-covered walls, that the impression —even despite the often roaring freeway at the bottom of the canyon—is still one of spaciousness and peace.

Garden plans—and they were fairly comprehensive—were made at once by George Cooke, who as Samuel Parson's partner had come to San Diego to superintend the landscaping of Balboa Park. Mr. Cooke's experience had been in park work in the east, but he had learned about plants for the differing climates in his training years at Kew, and so showed, both in the Park and in the Marston garden, a fine knowledge of the uses of such trees as eucalyptus, acacia and pepper, as well as pine and cedar.

Just as in the Park, deep holes had to be blasted for the new trees, since most San Diego soil, as we all know to our sorrow, is shallow, with hardpan beneath. Labor and forethought, as is usually the case, paid off, and the trees grew and prospered. The

The Formal Garden: morning glories and a charming inset fountain ornament the brick wall.

Canary Island pines at both entrances to the grounds were amongst the earliest plantings; eucalypti took grateful root in their deep holes and were added to year by year; on the Park side the screening hedge of arbutus and native toyon has grown dense and tall. The plan included the broad, sloping lawns on three sides of the house. Later Mr. Marston planted at the bottom of the east lawn a semicircle of *Eucalyptus polyanthemos,* through which can be seen the wooded canyon and the opposite hill.

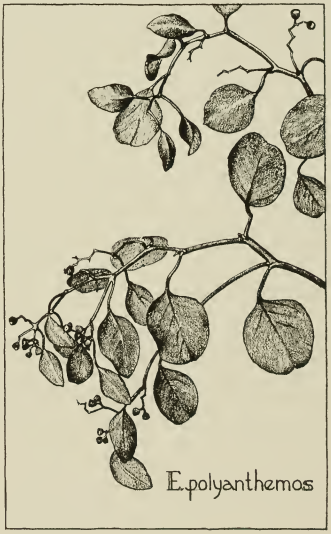
Mr. Cooke, unfortunately involved in a fatal accident, did not live to carry on the work, public and private, that he had begun. Mr. Marston, who in addition to being gifted in many other ways, was a good landscape architect, and knew very definitely what he had in mind, carried on constructively. More trees were planted, the vistas kept clear, and sloping lawns led the eye to chosen areas below, such as the little meadow lying between pines and leptospermums. In the planting, he was, of course, immeasurably helped by the two horticulturists we have come to think of as the grand old ladies of the garden (only they weren't old ladies then), Miss Kate Sessions and Mme E. Benard.

ON THE canyon side Mr. Marston scattered wildflower seed and experimented with planting or encouraging the native shrubs, of which only the sumacs and the hollies survived. Some of the original sumacs, now of impressive dimensions, are still there. The little dry creek at the bottom of the canyon was bridged for rainy weather and sycamores and live oaks were planted. This area is now Cabrillo Freeway. Behind the house there were orange trees, a rose arbor, and a vegetable garden.

In 1927 a formal garden was constructed in the place where the vegetable garden had been. This garden, level, flower-bordered and partly walled, using architectural features as part of its charm, was designed by Hale Walker, associate of John Nolen, the city planner.

So much for the garden's history. And how does it look after its fifty-six years?

The test of good planting is surely the achievement of enduring beauty. Serenity and spaciousness were obviously of first importance in the minds of owners and designers, and the same tranquil spirit is there today. Despite



Highway 395—"noisy but necessary," to quote Miss Mary Marston—which goes its way at the bottom of the garden, the grounds, painted in all shades of Southern California green, are lovely.

From the house the view on two sides carries the eye downhill. Closest are broad and gently rolling lawns, but the chief glories are the trees. Of these the tallest are the many graceful *Eucalyptus citriodora,* their trunks that luminous, pale shade that looks so wonderful by moonlight. There are other eucalypti, including a tall sugar-gum, *E. corynocalyx (cladocalyx),* and the charming half-circle of round-leafed *E. polyanthemos.* Near these is a great, shaggy eucalypt, identified by Mr. Chauncy I. Jerabek as *E. rostrata,* or red-gum. It is so stately and beautiful that it should be remembered as an ideal specimen for broad spaces.

On the Park side, where they form a screening hedge, are strawberry trees, *Arbutus unedo*; native toyons, with here and there the silver-gray *Acacia baileyana*; this soon will be no longer gray, but yellow in its winter bloom. Down the east slope, still banked by trees, is a great planting of agapanthus and moræa. In June it is like a blue lake, often surrounded by thousands of starry white blossoms. Nearby is a thicket of fragrant *Pittosporum tobira* to give creamy spring blooms.

AS ONE circles the house, the plan and the planting become more

The Entry: the driveway curves across broad and gently rolling lawns.

formal. An apricot tree and a plum tree are espaliered against a high brick wall, while on the other side of the path flowers spill over a very low wall; then the path widens out under spreading *Eucalyptus lehmanni,* and from there a flagged terrace on the east side of the formal garden leads to a semicircular "overlook" — part summerhouse, part balustraded balcony — all happily embowered in climbing roses.

To the west is the large formal garden area. Here a green square is surrounded by flower beds, a cutting garden on the south, a garden-house on the west, and at the north end a brick wall, this highly ornamented by blue morning-glories and by an inset fountain of charming design; a grilled gate opens through the wall to the neighbor's garden. Against and behind the wall, north and west, are colorful trees: oleanders, jacarandas, and a gorgeous specimen of the handsome yellow-flowering tree which we used to think of as tecoma, but which now has been given the more difficult name, *Stenolobium stans.*

The mixed beds that the garden books love to refer to as herbaceous borders here have plenty of room for seasonal variety, as well as scope for working out delightful color schemes. Pink raphiolepis blooms next to white diosma; there are columbines, gerberas, petunias, chrysanthemums, and the rather seldom-seen hypericums, their light-yellow flowers lasting from summer through fall. Such a garden, of course, functions all year long, and has more possibilities than late summer shows.

The rose-bed is on the west, near the roofed garden-house, which is of brick with insets of gay floral tile. Less striking, but very attractive, are the carved capitals on the redwood pillars, interlaced eucalyptus leaves forming the design of the carvings. The same pattern is repeated on some of the garden furniture.

ON THE west of the house, the driveway swings in under the porte-cochere, and out again. This is the Seventh Avenue side, where the oldest trees, the pines and the cedars, have reached a great height. The spreading live-oaks, planted in 1919, shade the driveway and shelter the house. Throughout the garden a few trees had to be taken out for the good of the whole; this could not have been easy for a family of dedicated tree lovers. The results justify any pangs there might have been.

Today, in what is now almost the heart of the city, this garden, after its fifty-six years under skilled and understanding care, remains outstanding in its beauty.

It's a season to savor . . . dressings and sauces,
spices, and mulled wine . . . nerve tonics and cold capsules.
It's the season to sample the . . .

Vitamins in Your Garden

By Florence A. Pierce

AFTER weeks of hot, dry weather, the herb garden begins to look sad and dejected, but with the approach of the late fall and winter holidays, it resumes its important place. To think of roast turkey is to think of sage and onion dressing, and to have the sage growing in your own garden is much better than to rely on the dried product from the store.

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) has been cultivated for many centuries, and used both in cooking and for medicinal purposes. The name, salvia, is from a Latin word meaning "to be saved," referring to the curative properties of the plant. Sage is a hardy perennial; one plant will provide plenty for a small family's use. It enjoys full sun, good drainage, and some protection from wind, as would any sensible plant. Most herbs do not need a great deal of water.

Many of the herbs may be used in Christmas decorating: Wreaths using the gray santolina with the dark green of thyme, and a sprig of rosemary tucked in to bring happiness throughout the year; place-cards for the Christmas dinner table with a spray of rosemary attached with red ribbon; a "tussie-mussie," or small, fragrant bouquet, of thyme, rosemary, and scented-leaf geranium, making a corsage of herbs.

Parsley, so good in salads and as a garnish, should be planted anew each year to assure a constant supply. A biennial, it usually dies down after forming seed.

Garden cress, an annual, is good in place of parsley, making a nice border plant, easily grown from seed. The flavor is much like that of water cress.

Rue, one of the bitter herbs not so commonly grown, is a very dainty plant with lacy, gray-green foliage and small, four-petaled flowers. This perennial grows easily from seed. Rue, chopped fine and mixed with cream cheese, makes a different sandwich fill; the bitter tang of the herb combines pleasingly with the tart flavor of the cheese.

Herbs are a center of attraction in the garden. Friends often say, "I want to see your herb patch," and walk through, tasting of this leaf and that, comparing flavors. I do not use poison spray on the herbs, so it is perfectly safe to nibble them. My own favorite would be a leaf or two of tarragon, though it has refused to thrive, I am sorry to say, and must be planted again. The books say that tarragon sets no seed, though some seed catalogs offer it.

Lovage, often found in old-time New England gardens, is a perennial with celery-like flavor. A gopher, the villain, found the few plants I had growing. Plants of thyme and lavender growing nearby evidently did not appeal to the gopher, for they were not touched.

Nigella, Love-in-a-Mist, not often listed among the herbs, deserves a place there. An annual, easily grown from seed, it has feathery, light green foliage and pretty blue flowers. The interesting seed pods may be used either green or dry in arrangements. The little black seeds are sometimes sprinkled on cakes or cookies.

Rosemary, a plant of many legends, has a special place in Christmas decorations. It is often used as well in meat cookery to add an interesting flavor.

Teasel, a biennial, is not among the edible herbs, but deserves a place in the garden. In years gone by, the spectacular seed heads were used in textile mills for picking up the nap of cloth. The sharp, curved spines, when dry, were ideal for such uses. The seed heads make a handsome addition to the dry bouquet, either natural color, or dipped in gold, silver or bronze. Large fields of teasel are still grown commercially in England; this is also true of lavender, which, history tells, was brought to Britain by the Romans and remains long after the Romans have vanished.

Comfrey, an experiment with me this year, was widely used many years ago, and is coming into notice again. Old-time herbals of 1568 and 1597 describe its healing qualities. Since it contains Vitamin C, it was used in Britain during the war years as a source of the vitamin when oranges were not available.

Comfrey is a perennial of the Borage family with many uses. Both its leaves and roots contain allantoin, a compound with healing power. As a food, the young leaves, cooked like spinach, are a good source of greens. My four plants are making good growth and I have been able to harvest leaves several times.

With a garden of herbs—with mint, dill, basil, and many others—you always have material for healthful food or drink:

You should eat your vitamins
Instead of taking pills—
'Tis nature's way of showing you
A cure for all your ills.

If you want healthy, vigorous plants, invest in the soil, in humus, mulches and soil conditioners. Good growth depends upon good roots, and roots can be no better than the soil.

On an over-sized tray of bamboo from Formosa a golden casaba is presented with a minimum of material to give it a setting of importance—not to conceal it but to add to its glory. One dark acorn squash repeats the dark tray. Physianthus vine (sometimes called false stephanotis or kapok vine because of its white flowers and green pods filled with down), a spray of mahogany-colored day lily, which forgot that summer is over, a few succulents, and pods of the physianthus complete the picture. A small pincup holds water for flowers and vine.

Photograph by Jack Carrick

Arrangements 'In the Round'

By Margaret Carrick, author of *Creative Flower Arrangement*

WELL, what have we accomplished in the world of flower arrangement today? One very important thing, I believe, is that gradually more and more arrangers are accepting working "in the round" as sculptors do, as opposed to what we might call the "bas relief" of the past, where we thought it necessary to have only one side—the front. We can still accomplish striking effects with swags, wreaths, decorated panels and the like, but the flat-sided arrangement in a bowl simply was neither one nor the other. We *did* see the backless back from the sides, and psychologically, I think, it affected us as a sham. And that's my learned opinion for what it's worth.

Test it for yourself and see if the arrangements which please you most in a show or in someone's home aren't so constructed as to be pleasing from all sides, whether they are to be seen in the middle of a table or on a chest against the wall. Keeping this thought in mind may help you to understand judges' opinions, too, since it is a point which is considered by all competent judges — at least by all of the competent judges with whom this competent judge has judged in the past ten years.

Another frequent complaint heard at flower shows is that the arrangements which most often win the prizes have so few flowers. And yet my personal observation in my own studio, week after week, upholds the justice of the prizes. I can have lovely bouquets which were time-consuming affairs and people will say (in passing) what lovely roses, dahlias or whatever, and then head straight for something which was put together in minutes with perhaps a few grasses, leaves, and a flower or two, and observe every detail of it with oh's and ah's of acclaim.

This seems to point up several facts: It is not that we don't enjoy flowers in quantity in the house. We love them. But they don't last very long and it took us a long, long time to grow them, so maybe we're not anxious to be hasty about cutting them to last only a day or two — unless we're having company?

We are busy, busy people and want something that is easy and quick. But more than that, I truly believe, we want something that bespeaks our own personality and originality.

We want something which we can peruse. Flowers are warm and friendly, and we want them around. But observe the next time you have a chance and see how long people really study them.

MORE and more we are being made aware of good design — balanced as to form and color, texture and contrast — in our homes, in our gardens, in our public buildings. Look back only ten or twenty years and see a building which at the time you said was not good and that it wouldn't last. Now it is no longer noticed. It has turned into one of the better things of the past. I think flower arrangement is doing the same thing.

If I've learned one thing in the twenty-five years that I've been at this, it is that I will not say that I will never like such and so. I've had to eat too many words in my day and my digestion is not what it once was.

Fall in Love with IRIS

By Helen D. Carswell

God made the flowers to beautify
The Earth, and cheer Man's
careful mood;
And he is happiest who has power
To gather wisdom from a flower,
And wake his heart in every hour
To pleasant gratitude.
—Wordsworth

IF ONE is weighed down with life and its problems, nothing can help in getting closer to the Land of Hesperides, or perhaps to a place where one can believe in fairies and "little people," than iris. According to legend, they were fashioned from the rainbow as a gift to man from celestial regions. They come in every color and are easy to grow; they increase to large clumps, and in general put a song in the heart. As a hobby, iris make a neat little package, a recreation for every day in the year, a seasonal project, or just a little row in the garden, depending on the time, space and effort devoted to them.

The most beautiful iris garden I know is the more than forty-year love of a lady almost eighty years young. Forming a horseshoe planting around a broad lawn, it is the focal view from her windows and patio. In full sun and on the east side of the house, the soil has good drainage and the background of flowering trees, climbing roses and vines is enhanced by a small pool, seasonal bulbs and perennials. Meticulous grooming keeps the garden a thing of beauty at all seasons.

Design, soil, sun, drainage, care and grooming, selection of varieties and companion plants are the factors that produce these results. Everyone cannot duplicate it with their first iris planting, but this is an ideal season to make a start; to renovate any planting you may have, visit friends' gardens, see iris in bloom in the months ahead, study their uses, and make decisions as to location, time and effort and inclination.

If you do not have even one iris, a good start is to buy a bargain collection and start with a row, set out according to color. Almost any gardener can spare a strip of ground for this purpose, but sun is the first important factor; full sun is best, but at least a half day is essential. In shade the plants will not bloom well.

Drainage and type of soil must next be considered. If the soil is heavy, humus matter should be spaded in, good and deep, with lots of bonemeal and humisite added. Water should never stand in your iris row. A good way to provide drainage is to poke holes along the edge of the bed with a spading fork, down as deep as you can go. Iris grow best, and display undreamed perfection of form and color, in new ground where there has never been iris before.

HOW to plant an iris varies in different parts of the country. Here in Southern California, where we do not have the danger of frost heaving the rhizome out of the ground, we set it rather high, like a duck riding on water. Deep planting here tends to produce lots of fan, and less bloom. Plants should be about 12 inches apart to prevent crowding in the years ahead.

My favorite plan is to remove a shovelful of soil where each plant is to go, put a trowelful of bonemeal and humisite mixture in the bottom of each hole and fill it with sifted compost. Place the rhizome just below the surface of the ground with the roots well spread out, then firm down well. If the rhizome is set to the northeast, the "babies" that develop along the sides are protected from the cold, and get better sun.

Placing three plants in each hole will produce quicker results, and give the effect of a clump even the first season, but in our twelve-month growing season it will mean crowding by the second year and the work of resetting sooner. The first year produces a bloom stalk on each plant, the second more, and the third is "lush." From the fourth season on, rhizomes are crowded and the flowers sparse.

July to October is the ideal planting season (as soon as the rhizomes have matured), but since we have growth through the entire winter, even later plantings will often produce good bloom. It is not a good practice to reset iris immediately after blooming season, although it is often nice to move

Tom Craig, noted iris hybridizer of Escondido, will speak at the Floral Association meeting on December 19, 8 p.m., Floral Building, Balboa Park.

Helen D. Carswell will speak at the January meeting. Her topic is "Horticulture Across the United States." January 16, 1962, 8 p.m., Floral Building.

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the plants to another location, if the spot is to be re-used at once. Bulbs that are not mature often fail to produce bloom the following season.

Garden hygiene is the secret of healthy iris. Leaves and all debris should be kept out of the center of the clumps, and the oldest leaves carefully peeled off (never pull). Snails and slugs are their worst enemies. A garden apparently free of snails may frequently have a lot of slugs in cracks in the soil. They leave unsightly marks on the foliage as it matures. Even if you think you have no slugs, try sprinkling some snail bait around your iris, and see what you have in the morning.

Several seasons of iris growing are bound to develop a desire for variety, for types other than the tall bearded group, such as miniatures, table type, ariels, oncos, any one of numerous strains, or for certain color groups, for the repeat bloomers, and for those that give winter color. However, since they stand all sorts of neglect or mistakes, the tall bearded iris are a fine start for the novice.

ONE needs only to look at the iris of the '50s, with a backward glance at earlier ones, to know that hybridizers have made forward strides in improving the genus. Color and form have changed completely, substance has been improved, and height of bloom stalk and branching have been increased to prolong the blooming season.

Here are some older ones I would never part with and why:

White

Helen McKenzie (Graves '50)—Because it is such a pure white.

White Ruffles (C. Taylor '47)—Delightful form and heavy bloomer.

Snow Flurry (C. Rees '39)—An all time classic.

Yellow to Tan and Brown

Charmaize (D. Lyon '49)—Heavy substance. Lasts well.

Ola Kala (J. Sass '43)—Deep warm color.

Souson (Essig '42)—Dependable winter bloomer.

Painted Desert (Milliken '42)—A color thrill. Tall.

Blue to Purple

Lake Tenaya (Meiss '50)—Very floriferous. Clean color.

Chivalry (J. Wills '44)—A classic in the blues.

Blue Shimmer (J. Sass)—Stunning color effect. Good grower.

Black Hills (Fay '51)—Black-purple. A color thrill.

Pink to Red

Ballerina (D. Hall '51)—Still a fine pink.

The Mad Hatter (D. Lyon '51)—Wine red and fragrant.

From the many varieties introduced in the '50s that are in my garden, here are my favorites:

White

White Peacock (Pattison '52)—Majestic, blue white. Long lasting.

Swan Ballet (Muhlestein '55)—Wide blooms that make a garden accent.

Yellow to Bronze

Gold Cup (Murray '56)—Deep warm color. Very early bloomer.

Golden Tan (Craig '54)—Tall. Deep rich color.

Dark Chocolate (Murray '54)—Seems like an improved Tobacco Road, for it blooms up higher.

Lavender to Purple

Serene Dusk (D. Lyon '57)—Like purple velvet.

Total Eclipse (Fay '56)—Almost black. Very large.

Lady Elsie (D. Lyon '57)—Named for a wonderful "Lady." Tall and well branched. Deep violet.

Blue

Blue Sapphire (Schreiner '53)—Exquisite clean color. Ruffled.

Praiseworthy (Muhlestein '55)—Fell in love with it at the AIS 1956 Convention.

Pink to Red

Happy Birthday (D. Hall '52)—Dainty color. Repeat bloomer.

Oriental Pearl (D. Hall '56)—Really Pink.

Bang (Craig '55)—The color really stops you. Well named.

Firebright (Craig '54)—Tall flame red. Bloomed all through January, one bloom stalk after another. Have planted a whole row for next season.

Regardless of plans and budgets, in the iris world there is always one special flower you must have. For me this year it was Celestial Snow. Tall, ruffled, cool pure white, it is really "out of this world," but actually the origination of Brother Charles of Mission Gardens, Techny, Illinois. That is the way it is, year after year, when the "Iris Bug" bites you and you really fall in love with Iris!

CALENDAR

December 2-3
"Christmas at Home," Flower Show and Sale of Christmas items by La Mesa Garden Club. La Mesa Woman's Club House, 5220 Wilson, La Mesa. Sat. 1-6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free.

December 11
Flower Arrangement Class; Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick, instructor. Floral Bldg., 9:30 a.m.

December 12 & 19
Flower Arrangement Workshop; Mrs. Arthur J. Mitchell, instructor. Floral Bldg., 10 a.m.

December 21
Christmas Lights Bus Tour. For details see page 30.

January 9 & 23
Flower Arrangement Workshop; Mrs. Arthur J. Mitchell, instructor. Floral Bldg., 10 a.m.

January 13-14
Rose pruning demonstration, Balboa Park Rose Garden. Sat. 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.

January 22
Flower Arrangement Class; Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick, instructor. Floral Bldg., 9:30 a.m.

50 YEARS AGO in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

December, 1911—More than half the garden paths in San Diego are too narrow and it is no use to cry we want all the space we can get for flower beds. One of the most exquisite joys of the true gardener is to show visitors around, yet the majority today have to take their friends in Indian file, and conversation with demonstration is almost impossible. . . .

December, 1911—Judge Conley, of Madera, suggests that flower and vegetable gardens, which would occupy the idle moments of women and keep them in the open, would tend to lessen the divorce evil.

January, 1912—If you have a real garden, you have a place where the forces of nature will act for you the drama of life. No play acting, but the real thing, and its great charm lies in knowing the actors and watching them play their parts. Like men? No, much more faithfully. Like plants, like ants, like all the other myriad forms of this thing we call life.

January, 1912 — Gardeners, don't lose time fooling with good resolutions for the new year. They only waste energy in the making, and lower self-esteem in the breaking. Get in and dig.

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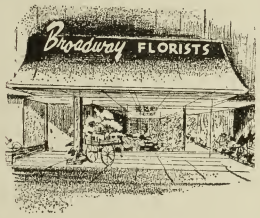

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The most interesting branch of the geranium family

THE DWARFS

By Thos. L. Hosmer

NEXT to the Scented Leaf geraniums, the most interesting branch of the family is the Dwarf Division. The dwarfs are the least understood, but perhaps the most widely used of all geraniums, since the small potted plants can be grown in anyone's window. All one has to do to verify this fact is to drive around the great metropolis of New York where many of these midgets are to be seen on the window ledges.

Once you have seen such pint-size plants as Black Vesuvius, Elf, Pigmy and Fairyland, you become enamored of them if you love geraniums at all. That is the lot that befell the author a few years back when he was growing geraniums commercially. Once the ball started rolling, there was no stopping until the largest collection of dwarfs then known in America had been assembled.

Should you have even a faint thought of collecting a few, your first step would be to send 10 cents to Holmes C. Miller, 280 West Portola Ave., Los Altos, California, for his valuable catalogue. It contains four pages on dwarfs with growing directions, and six pages of growing instructions for all geraniums.

To the author, Holmes Miller is Mr. Dwarf Geranium personified. In his small backyard growing grounds he has accomplished more in geranium hybridizing than all the others combined. His little Geranium Empire is well organized, but is not too much of a display place, so if you go there be prepared to ask for what you want to see, and he will gladly show it to you. Miller's first crosses were interrupted by the war, but upon returning home he started his work again.

The Dwarf Division is divided into Miniatures, Dwarfs and Semi-Dwarfs. The first section, defined a few years ago by the International Geranium Society, consists of plants not over eight inches tall, and the second section of plants from 8-12 inches. You can make your own classification for the third, but it usually covers plants from 12-15 inches.

Perhaps the best known Miniature the world over is Black Vesuvius. It was probably originated some seventy years ago and has been used by most hybridizers as the basic plant for crosses. It has single orange-scarlet flowers which are surprisingly large for such a diminutive plant. It is indeed quite valuable as it is exceptionally free-flowering, especially in winter. Its bright, cheerful flowers against very dark, blackish-green leaves are a thing to be envied on any window ledge whether in the East or the West. Black Vesuvius is a very slow grower.

Contrasting to Black Vesuvius is the miniature-leafed Pigmy, with foliage of an exceptional light green color with zone markings. Its double red flowers come in such profusion at times that they almost hide the foliage. It gives the appearance of growing much faster than Black Vesuvius, but still keeps to the Miniature class. Its growth is of the bushy, well-branched spreading habit; even when very small it seems to bloom freely.

Miller was the first American to

work on these plants to much extent, and his best Miniatures are Fairyland, Imp, Pixie, Elf and variegated Kleiner Liebling. This latter plant can be grown out of the Miniature class, but as a rule it stays small in size.

Fairyland, a silver tricolor, is perhaps the best of Miller's work, and indeed is the easiest of his fancy-leafed dwarfs to grow. It is a true Miniature, quite bushy, rather a slow grower, seldom getting more than a few inches high. It has small, dark grayish-green leaves with a wide ivory border, beautifully zoned with irregular splashes of rose-red. The ivory border becomes pink or rose-red with zones of deeper color when it is subjected to plenty of sun and low night temperature. It has small, single flowers of light scarlet. If you can only have one Miniature of the fancy-leafed type, it should be Fairyland. The author believes it was the first fancy-leaf from Miller's years of effort.

Elf, a golden tricolor, is also an interesting Miniature and should be second choice. In all ways it is quite similar to Fairyland, with the exception of its leaf.

Classed with the above plants should be Miller's Imp, for it is rather easy to grow and rounds out any collection of true Miniatures. Its foliage is black-green with a black zone; this foliage sets off a very lovely single salmon flower, rather large for a Miniature, which is produced quite freely in nice clusters. Along with Black Vesuvius and Pixie, it should be added to any window ledge collection.

IN THE Dwarf class there are many, many opportunities to make selections. Two of my favorites are Miller's Red Spider, with rolled petals, and Mischief, which he describes as having rolled and twisted petals. The former's blooms are of intense scarlet, and the latter orange-scarlet.

Add to these the dozens of rather large-leafed Dwarfs brought out by Milton Arndt of Hightown, New Jersey, the ten or more still in the trade of those introduced many years ago by Californian Ernest Rober (now deceased), a few by Dave Case (also deceased) of Santa Barbara, and the dozens by Miller, and you have quite a large field of choice.

In the Semi-Dwarfs, there are three that should be mentioned in any article. They are Kleiner Liebling (Little Darling), Emma Hossler and Mr. Everaarts. All three are easy to grow, and if handled properly, will remain under 10 inches; yet if heavily fertilized and

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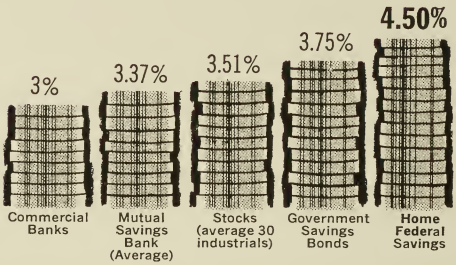

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Dwarf Geraniums . . .

watered, or put in the open ground, they will easily outdo that height. The author saw them in a commercial field in Southern California where they were all around 15 inches high, yet all three have been on the author's benches for more than eighteen months and have not gone over eight inches. Emma Hossler is a double, light rose-pink with white center, while Mr. Everaarts is a double rose. Kleiner Liebling, a small, single rose flower, is the least desirable of the three.

A Semi-Dwarf that is worth a try by anyone is Madame Fournier. It has small dark leaves, with a darker zone, and single scarlet flowers that are produced freely. Like Black Vesuvius and other older varieties, it seems to have come down through the ages.

It would be possible to go on and on writing about these plants, but it would take quite a lot of paper just to describe the nearly one hundred varieties that the author has worked with. Having picked out the best for you, I want to leave you with some specific do's and don'ts.

It often happens that these dainty plants, especially the Miniatures, suffer severely when shipped from even a short distance. If shipped in pots, it is best to keep them in pots for a few days and give them plenty of sun, rather than shade, for the first few days. These plants have a bad habit of losing some leaves in shipping, and too often leaves will nearly all turn yellow. With proper care they will recuperate rapidly.

Holmes Miller never ships in pots except when absolutely necessary; when he does, it is advisable to keep the plants in the original pots until they have fully recovered or new growth has actually started, then shift to 3-inch pots. Most growers of Dwarfs recommend a quick, thorough watering when the plants are unpacked, but personally I give the pot and soil a quick "dunking" and leave them in shade a little while and then move them out to a sunny spot.

Watering these little fellows is slightly different from the usual set-up for geraniums. They must never become completely dry, but also must not be kept continually wet. When you do water them, make it thorough. This past summer during the record hot spells, my dwarfs got a heavy watering every second or third day and a light leaf sprinkling between waterings, and they seem to have thrived on the treatment.

YOU can usually get as many soil mixtures in any plant line as you know growers, but one thing is sure, most of the mixtures will start with part loam. From there you can develop your own mixture of sand and organic material. For the latter the author prefers leaf mold. The best suggestion for most plants would be one part loam, one part coarse, washed sand (no beach sand), and one part leaf mold. Personally I add to this the equivalent of one 4-inch pot of super phosphate and one 4-inch pot of horn shavings to each wheelbarrow load. Since this latter ingredient is hard to get these days, one often has to substitute, but it keeps plants looking sturdy and healthy over a long period.

As to fertilization, here again one has to work along lines that have proven best for him, but in fertilizing these Miniatures and Dwarfs, always remember that they will take only about one-fourth the recommended dose for house plants. Perhaps soluble fertilizers would be easier, but the one-quarter dose rule applies even then.

This article will no doubt bring to your mind many questions. Let me assure you that I will be happy to answer them if you will address me at Route 4, Box 99A, Vista, California, and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please be patient, since work sometimes piles up and the letters have to wait.

At this time I want to thank all of you who have sent in memberships in the International Geranium Society in response to my articles in CALIFORNIA GARDEN last year. At the request of many friends, I am planning to open my small Lath House and Test Gardens in Vista in 1962, perhaps from March 25 to May 15. Visitors will be welcome by appointment.

Thos L. Hosmer, Vista landscape architect with a world reputation as a geranium authority, has been awarded a Gold Life Membership by the International Geranium Society. His award, the fourth in the Society's history, is the organization's highest honor.

Mr. Hosmer, currently serving as Consulting Landscape Architect at California Western University, is a prolific writer on geraniums. In addition to his articles (*see above*) in this magazine, he is scheduled for early appearances in *Popular Gardening* and *Flower Grower*.

CASUARINAS

Named for a bird, it's a tree family of beef, horse, iron and legend

By Chauncy I. Jerabek

A GROUP of trees with odd foliage and a rich background in legend offers unique advantages for the San Diego area. The Casuarinas, suggestive of pines to some people, are unusually tolerant of alkaline soils and salt spray, both of which present problems in some sections of San Diego County.

All three of those described below have been used widely as street trees throughout California. One, *Casuarina stricta,* appears among the best sixty-five trees for parkway planting on the list prepared by the California Association of Park administrators.

Casuarina cunninghamia, from Queensland and New South Wales, is commonly called River or Creek Oak. By these names one would judge that it likes plenty of fresh water, but oddly enough, the tree grows in comparatively dry soils. Given ample moisture, however, it becomes a much better tree.

Generally it is upright, with spreading, drooping branches, and numerous branchlets. These branchlets are densely covered with minute joints, clasped together by tiny scales or teeth, which form the fine, thread-like leaves. After its fall blooming period come small, globose cones, about one-third of an inch across, which are filled with numerous winged seeds. Since it will stand severe pruning, *C. cunninghamia* is an excellent subject for topiary work.

Locations (street trees)—
Central: 206 W. Palm, 3062 Grape, 3162 Second.
East: 5000 block of College Ave., 4449 Marlborough Dr., three SW of Scripps Cottage at State College.
Point Loma: 855 San Antonio Place, 1506 Plumosa Way.
Bay Park: 1844 Denver, 4335 Napier.
La Jolla: Two in front, and one near garage at 5805 Beaumont; 5820 Waverly, 6097 Bellevue (and many more good specimens in the same area).

Casuarina equisetifolia, known by a number of common names such as Forest or Shingle Oak, Horsetail Tree, Beefwood or Ironwood, has a wide growing range, including North Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, the islands of the Malay archipelago and the west coast of Burma. It becomes a magnificent tree with dense, hair-like, deep green leaves on erect or spreading branches. It is a wonderful tree for street planting and one of the best for the seashore, since it thrives in brackish soils or in pure sand.

The female bears small, bushy flowerets, while the male blossoms are covered with yellow pollen. The fruit is a sub-globose cone about one-half inch long.

Locations—
East: 5000 Bristol Road, 4615 Forty-seventh.
Mission Hills: Two at 4451 Hermosa Way.
Bay Park: 1824, 1882, 1905, 1943, 2034 Erie.
La Jolla: 5770 Beaumont.

A third member of this same family is *Casuarina stricta,* the Mountain or Drooping She Oak. It is a small tree or dense shrub with pendulous, prominently ribbed branchlets, dark green in color. The burr-like cones, an inch to

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Casuarinas . . .

one-and-a-half inches long, have protruding valves which upon maturity shed quantities of tiny, light brown, winged seeds.

C. stricta is a wonderful tree for dry or rocky soil, growing very well in sand in exposed coastal areas, where it may become a sprawling shrub. It may be severely cut back, since it will readily sprout from the stump. Generally in bloom during the fall months, the trees take on a beautiful tan color and provide good material for arrangements.

Locations—
Central: Balboa Park at the intersection of Redwood & Pershing Dr.; another group near Thorn & Pershing Dr.; North end 2600 block Front; Grounds (in Balboa Park) of the Camp Fire Girls.
Southeast: 5636 Bolivar St. (Paradise Hills); 5440 Churchward.
Coronado: Five beautiful specimens in the southeastern section of Spreckels Plaza; five at 221-233 A Ave. Lane.
La Jolla: Two small trees at 7210 La Jolla Blvd.

CASUARINAS derive their name from the resemblance of their branches to the stringy feathers of the cassowary *(Casuarius)*, the odd Australian bird which looks somewhat like a small ostrich. The wood resembles red mahogany (or rare roast beef, hence the common name beefwood). It was used for war clubs in Samoa and Australia, and the juice as a dye for cloth in the South Seas.

Casuarina equisetifolia, prominent in South Seas folklore, is credited with many mysterious powers:

Storms and unfavorable winds will accompany those who take a piece of the wood with them in a boat. In the shadow of the tree in full moon, secrets of the future can be heard.

Tahitians claim that these trees sprang from the bodies of warriors, whose blood became the red sap, their hair the leaves.

Fijian legend tells of the sky-child whose ironwood staff grew in a single night into a tree that reached to heaven. He climbed to the sky and helped his father conquer his enemies, then returned to earth and married the serpent-god's daughter.

The tree is now considered a symbol of faithfulness.

Casuarina at bay-side: A handsome *Casuarina cunninghamia* at the home of Dr. R. Emerson Bond, 855 San Antonio Place, Point Loma.

Damage Causes 20 - Acre Closing

A 20-acre section of Torrey Pines State Park near Del Mar has been closed by action of the State Park Commission. The area affected is known as Parry Grove. The closing, scheduled to last at least two years, will allow trees and vegetation to recover from damage caused where visitors have created a new trail and children have been sliding down banks.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946, AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 Stat. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF CALIFORNIA GARDEN, published bimonthly at San Diego, California, for December, 1961.

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George A. La Pointe, Editor
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of September, 1961.
Thos. L. Crist, Notary Public.

BOOK TOURS

Conducted by
Alice W. Heyneman

The Forgotten Peninsula: A Naturalist in Baja California. By Joseph Wood Krutch. William Sloane Associates, N.Y., 1961. 277 pages. $5.00.

One of the messages of Krutch's book is that no one has ever wanted Baja California, more than briefly at least. Spain wanted it as long as silver and pearls remained; the Catholic Church wanted its souls, but Father Serra, a practical churchman on the spot, chose to move northward to Alta California, where souls were more numerous and more amenable. Presumably the natives wanted the only land they knew, but they were few and helpless against the diseases and weapons imported by Europeans.

What is left today is a virtually untouched land, a land of discovery for the biological or geographical scientist. Krutch, who calls himself an "exclaiming sort of botanist," has made a total of ten trips by air and four-wheel drive, exploring the peninsula from the U.S. border to Cape San Lucas. He describes the country winningly, especially the onyx mines, the whaling stations, the unique Boojum trees, found only within a 125-mile radius in central Baja, and the fields of desert wildflowers.

Krutch is a conservationist, almost a primitivist; what delights him may not please the confirmed city-dweller. But his book contains much that will interest San Diegans, gardeners, and San Diego gardeners in particular.

Concise Gardening Encyclopedia. By Bernard W. Bishop. Philosophical Library, N.Y., 1961. 190 pages. $4.75.

If reading can ever substitute for traveling, this book may transport gardeners to an English back yard. A great deal, both of plants and problems, will seem familiar there, once you have mastered the language.

In spite of an informal, chatty style, the author lives up to the word "concise" in his title while touching upon pests, lawns, shrubs, weeds, and various garden practices. The encyclopedia sections cover vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit.

This is a British version of a how-to-do-it book. It contains an impressive amount of basic, practical information.

(G.A.L.)

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Ochna multiflora

WITH SUCH playful common names as "Fun Shrub" and "Mickey Mouse Plant," *Ochna multiflora* should have a wide appeal, but to date it has not attracted more than casual attention from the gardening public. People look and exclaim, but seldom buy and try.

An evergreen shrub, three to five feet tall with a five to six foot spread, its leaves are bronzy in spring, dark green and leathery in maturity. They are about three inches long, alternate, oblong and finely toothed, with prominent veins. The name "ochna" refers to this leaf shape as being pear-like.

The flowers pass through three stages from early summer to September. The fragrant, dark-yellow blooms (May-June), are the size of buttercups. The flowers themselves are short-lived, but the broad and plump receptacle gradually turns to a vivid red. Then five green, seed-like fruits protrude from the red center and finally turn to a jet black. At this stage, children readily recognize "Mickey Mouse."

Ochna requires partial shade (somewhat less than half), and very slightly acid, well-drained soil. It is safe to about 20 degrees, if in good moisture. Choose a cool slope away from the sun. Tub planting will enable you to fulfill the plant's soil needs while deriving full benefit from its extraordinary appeal as a conversation piece.

*Member ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions.*

A Calendar of Care

•GARDEN CHORES

THE NEXT two months provide many active sessions in our gardens if we are to accomplish the needs of this period: clean up, planting, feeding, spraying, watering carefully, and perchance a rainy day of planning.

Clean up in the garden is comprised of pruning and removal of dead and dying plant refuse. Pruning of woody and herbaceous plants will strengthen next season's growth and free the plant of crowded or weak growth, often more subject to insect and disease infestation. Subtropicals are not usually pruned until after the danger of frost has passed; Hibiscus, Bougainvillea, Fuchsias and Lantana are a few examples. Before composting the accumulated prunings, consider the value of its content and its disease-carrying properties, particularly if you have not used a general clean-up spray. Once this pruning is done, go over the garden with a strong dormant spray, carefully avoiding the tender leafy plantings.

December is not too late to plant many of the spring bulbs. Be sure to check on their condition. The bulbs' health, and the condition under which they were stored will have much to do with flowering qualities. This is especially true as the season advances.

Start early in preparing the planting area or holes for bare root stock, which begins arriving late in December. This stock consists generally of deciduous shade trees, fruit and nut trees, berries, shrubs, roses and dormant perennials.

It is good to prepare the soil early with the many humus-building materials now available. The addition of sand, not the ocean variety, will help in heavy soils. If manure is added to the planting area, allow at least three weeks and then turn the soil before planting. Bone meal is safely incorporated in planting. An outstanding exception in the addition of humus is the planting of Gerbera (Transvaal Daisy) roots. Peat, leaf mold or any material giving an acid reaction should be avoided.

Transplant that hardy shrub or tree now, while the weather is cool and damp, and the evergreen plant is most dormant. Among this group are the conifers, including Junipers; Hollies, Viburnum, Camellias, and Azaleas are the more common examples. The deciduous Liquidambar or Sweet Gum, noted for fall color, may be moved and planted with a ball of earth. This and the Chinese Magnolias are not handled in our area as bare roots. Deciduous Magnolias are best moved as they begin blooming before they come into leaf.

Dichondra and the winter grass lawns should be kept well watered if rain and soil moisture retention is not great enough. Winter-growing evergreen plants of any type have a food requirement which must be met with fertilizer and moisture.

Plants damaged by frost during this period make better recovery if pruning is avoided until further frost dan-

ger has passed. Watering should be reduced.

The planting of annuals will continue for many months. Keep faded blooms picked to contribute toward stronger plant growth and continued color in the garden.

James Cauffield

• ROSES

WITH the bare root season for roses practically upon us, don't delay preparing your new beds. Dig them about 28 inches deep, incorporating a generous quantity of humus material and some soil sulphur. The soil sulphur offsets the alkalinity of our soil. Mix it all well and wet it down. Turn this soil over and wet it every few days until planting time. Should you just be replacing a few bushes in your garden, prepare the planting holes with at least two bucketfuls of new soil from another spot in your garden, adding humus, a couple of pounds of soil sulphur, and treat the hole as you do the new bed.

The new rose bushes you purchase should have "necks" at least three inches long. The "neck" is that area between the root system and the bud union. Plant your bushes with the bud union *above* the soil surface in our climate so that your mulch won't cover it. This encourages new canes to grow from the bud union. A handful of bone meal in the bottom of the hole benefits the plant over a long period, encouraging healthy, sturdy root growth.

If you favor dark red roses, do see the planting of the new grandiflora "John Armstrong" in the Balboa Park municipal rose garden north of the Natural History Museum. These bushes are located inside the hedge along Park Boulevard.

Discontinue fertilizing your roses for the balance of this year. That mid-October feeding will carry them through the holiday bloom. Be sure to keep the bushes well watered. Santa Ana conditions such as we had in October dehydrate plants rapidly and can do serious damage to those in need of water.

It is well to think ahead to pruning time which starts in mid-January through February. Without charts, it is not practical to attempt an article on pruning roses. John Paul Edwards' book *How to Grow Roses,* published by Sunset Books, has an excellent chapter on pruning. Most nurseries have this book for sale. Too, the annual rose pruning demonstration by "Doc" Thompson and Mary Armstrong will take place in the Balboa Park rose garden in late January. This writer learns something new from each yearly demonstration and can't recommend attendance too highly. Do watch the daily papers for exact dates.

May Santa Claus bring you some new rose bushes and the New Year bring success in growing them. Happy Holidays.

Nettie Trott
SD Rose Society

• DAHLIAS

AS IN ALL other forms of gardening, some of the best months for dahlia hobbyists come in the winter. This is the time for planning—and dreaming. Plans and dreams now can mean next summer's wealth of color.

First, the gardener should decide what space he wants to give to dahlias, if he hasn't grown them before. Almost any soil that can grow anything else is suitable. A sandy loam is the most desirable because of the ease with which the gardener can work it. But adobe or clay can be very satisfactory. Heavy soil can be made easier to work with the addition of gypsum or one of the soil conditioners available at nurseries.

A neutral soil—or about so—with a 6 or 7 *p*H is said to be the best. Again, regardless of the exact scientific approach, ground that will grow beans or roses will grow dahlias.

The space required depends on the number of plants. One, two, or a few plants will provide flowers for the house, or color for the yard. For the smaller varieties, 18 inches square may be figured for each plant. Pleasing results with the larger types can be attained with an allocation of 24-30 inches square in the garden. From this base, the gardener can plan and dream to his heart's content.

Next: What to plant?

To grow large flowers, tubers of the large varieties must be planted. The gardener can be as selective as he pleases. He can decide ahead of time and obtain tubers for the huge ones, or for those that produce flowers of no more than seven or eight inches, four to six inches, or even under four inches. There also can be a choice of the pompon or ball varieties; under two inches, up to four inches, and over four.

Important at this stage of winter dahlia gardening are the catalogs. These help decide sizes, types and colors, and they should be requested now.

Most good seed catalogs have sections listing standard dahlia varieties. Or, to get the very best or the very latest, the catalogs of the dahlia specialists should be obtained. Fall and winter issues of national gardening magazines have listings of these specialists who will mail catalogs at the drop of a postcard. By obtaining the catalogs early there's more winter dreaming time before the March and April planting time.

Experienced gardeners who want to try their hands at dahlia propagation with cuttings must get started especially early. Tubers must be ordered early enough to put them on the propagation bench in late January or early February.

By taking cuttings, two or more plants can be obtained from one tuber. Success with this form of gardening adds to the pleasure of the hobby. The experimenter can prove that dahlias from cuttings are just as good as those from tubers, and that a good crop of roots may be produced for the next year.

If more plants are obtained than there is garden space, try culture in pots. The smaller varieties do fairly well in pots as small as four inches, but the 7-inch or 8-inch containers are better. Even in the pots, roots will be produced for keeping and growing another year.

There is no end to the dahlia dreaming. So, get busy with the planning, and order those catalogs right away.

Larry Sisk
SD County Dahlia Society

• BEGONIAS

A VERSATILE family, the begonia. There is always some member ready to perform through each season. Right now the hairy fibrous in the garden are beginning to send out their best blooms, extra fluffy because of their pubescence. Varieties may be obtained with flowers bewhiskered in white, pink or red. Incidentally, these are begonias for all locations in winter.

Because of the hirsute surfaces on leaves, stems and flowers, they stand more cold, even frost, than any other begonias, while providing much welcome bloom. Strange to say, they also take considerable heat.

The smooth-leaf, angel-wing fibrous or cane begonias slow their flowering unless in a very warm, sheltered place. Protect them if frost is indicated. They often recover nicely from a little nipping cold. Do not prune them until new shoots start when the weather warms again. Bedding begonias will give you some of your best color, if set out now.

Some of the large-leaf rhizomatous begonias continue to bloom through the cold season. Rexes will be going by. Be careful not to overwater this class. Ora Wilson, one of our best local authorities on these plants, says she "cuddles them in" at this time with a top dressing of good leaf mold and a generous pinch of bonemeal scattered around the edge of each medium-size pot.

Those handsome tuberous begonias are waning now. Don't overwater, but keep them growing as long as the leaves are green, in order to store up bulb strength for future bloom. Katherine Hunter, of Rosecroft (whose tuberous begonia blooms at the Republican dinner were a smash hit), says that the tubers may carry over in an upright pot after the tops are gone, and even take rain or the occasional winter watering, *if* the soil is porous enough to drain well. Those in the ground should be dug up as soon as the stems are gone and left in the open air, out of the hot sun, until the dirt can be shaken off. Store in a flat in a cool place.

Unless engaged in raising begonias from seed, a wonderful, but time-consuming project, this is the only season when begonia growers may take things easy, so make the most of it by looking for new varieties carried by some of our advertisers.

Alice M. Clark

• ORCHIDS

BY NOW you should definitely be able to see flower spikes on your Cymbidium orchids. You will have to be diligent to keep ahead of the slugs and snails. They love to nibble on the little buds, and a small hole now becomes a large hole when the flower opens. Put out bait three times a week at two to three week intervals. If the usual pellet type isn't doing the job, try the powder or liquid form of metaldehyde.

Yellow and green flowers should be shaded quite heavily to retain a clear color. This shading should be done from the time the buds break out of the sheath. Whites need some shading but the other colors need light to intensify their hues.

For those who are growing the warmer type orchids in a glasshouse, be sure to check your heater and other controls. They need to be in full operating condition for the winter months. To give your plants the light they need, the glass should be unshaded and clear by December.

Betty Newkirk
SD County Orchid Society

• CAMELLIAS

THIS IS the time to plant new camellias and to transplant ailing ones. Few plants contribute as much to landscaping as these evergreen beauties from the Orient. Their slow growth, glossy green foliage, and habit of blooming in what is off-season for most garden material make them prize subjects for garden beautification.

As a plant family, camellias are highly versatile. Most varieties of the popular *Camellia japonica* make handsome shrubs suitable for foundation plantings, but some make good pillar plants, some lend themselves to espaliering, while others can be used as a ground cover.

It is natural to think first of their landscaping value, but primary consideration must also be given to the specialized environment required by these plants.

Camellias thrive under filtered light in woodsy soil, but resent competition from vigorous growing trees and shrubs with root systems feeding in the upper few inches of soil. They do well in the high shade of pine trees, oaks, and some of the slow-growing evergreens, but do not thrive under elms, poplars, and eucalyptus trees.

They may be grown successfully in the open on the north side of a building and occasionally on the east side if not subjected to reflected heat from a white-painted surface. They thrive under light artificial shade such as

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that afforded by an arbor covered with saran cloth or lath to screen out 50% of the sun. In favored areas where humidity is high they will take considerable sun without injury. This is especially true of large, established plants that cast sufficient shade to keep their own root zone cool.

Their soil requirements are easily provided. They like a light soil rich in humus and well aerated. The standard mix favored by hundreds of successful growers is comprised of equal parts of peat moss, oak leaf mold, and sandy loam. Good compost may be substituted for part or all of the humus in this mix. Other materials successfully employed include fir bark, wood chips, and rice hulls.

Good surface and subsoil drainage is essential. If hardpan or rock underlies the plot (dug 18-24 inches), it may be necessary to install drain tile or to break through the hardpan so as to effect adequate drainage. Camellia roots are quickly damaged by waterlogged soil and any build-up of soil salts due to poor water percolation. Raised beds are often used in lieu of installing drain tile. Any retaining wall constructed around the bed must, of course, include weepers.

The soil in a newly prepared camellia plot should be settled by puddling, then allowed to dry out for easy working. In digging the planting hole, tamp down the bottom well to assure a firm base for the plant so that it will not settle appreciably as the humus content breaks down. Most growers allow for this minimum settling by planting the camellia about one or two inches high, then tapering the soil in mound fashion. A year or two later, the camellia will be at the proper level, with its upper roots just beneath the surface of the bed.

There are many causes for ailing camellias such as too much sun, exposure to drying winds, competition from roots of trees or other shrubs, too much water, not enough water, and an excess of soil salts. The major cause may be classed as poor soil environment. The common remedy is to transplant to a properly prepared plot.

In making the transplant, wash off the old soil and make a bareroot replant. Make certain that there's a generous portion of peat moss in the soil in the new hole. Firm the soil about the plant with the hands, then puddle several times to settle the plot and saturate the soil. Cut away any dead wood from the plant. If there is considerable foliage, this should be re-

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duced one third to one half. Now erect a temporary shelter to afford considerable shade until the transplant is reestablished. Transplants should be watered frequently, perhaps daily for the first week, and the foliage should be syringed once or twice daily to reduce water stress until new feeder roots are grown. When new growth starts, gradually remove the shelter which provides extra shade.

Clive N. Pillsbury
Pres., SD Camellia Society

• FUCHSIAS

AFTER the driest season in 110 years in Southern California, the hot Santa Ana winds in October put a sudden sickening end to the blooming season of many plants. Fuchsias were a notable example. But here in Mill Valley, at a house among the Redwoods by the Golden Gate, where this is being written in early November, the fuchsias haven't heard about the heat. And amidst the huge, lush blooms of a famous hybridizer's garden, that Santa Ana seemed as far away as the famine in China. In the Waltz Gardens, among the big shade trees that the town of Ross, California, is famous for, we saw fuchsia blooms of such varieties as Red Jacket, Midnite Sun, Pink Delight, Whirlaway, and many others, which were actually between three and four inches in diameter.

It is easy to understand why so many world-famous hybridizers of fuchsias have located in this area. Among them, Muriel Waltz, with her many brilliantly beautiful introductions of new varieties, stands out as most worthy indeed. In the short course of a few years, she has originated, besides the ones mentioned, Desert Sunset, Candlelight, Easter Bonnet, Fantasy, Starlite, Nightingale, Summer Snow (with a creamy hint of the long-sought yellow), Dusky Rose, Shady Lane, Waltz Time, Sweet Little Midge, and the Patented Pink Elegance. There are many others. And here's a preview: Next year she is bringing out such new ones as Flirtation Waltz, Bonnie Lass, and a gorgeous big double in dusky Oriental shades of red, to be called Red Shadows. Plants we saw were lush and fine.

The preferred planting mix here includes ¼ Blue Whale Peat Moss, ¼ good leafmold, and ½ good soil, with perhaps a little sponge-rock or

sand mixed in. Muriel Waltz also uses liquid Blue Whale for extra feeding in growing and blooming time. Springtime fertilizer, of course, should be high in nitrogen, with phosphates later for bloom.

Now that the season of complete dormancy approaches, when fuchsias get their rest for a good blooming season next year, and the watering and feeding is no longer a chore, we may find time to introduce various attractive foliage plants, ferns, etc. into our gardens, to make a richer setting for fuchsias later.

We sometimes wonder how many California Gardeners realize and appreciate how the Creator blessed this State in its versatility and potentiality for growing things. Stretching up and down the Pacific Ocean for over a thousand miles, its mountains, valleys, deserts, wooded and coastal areas afford almost as much variation and interesting opportunity for the gardener as is found in an entire Continent such as Australia, for instance. And it's all ours to make it what we will.

Morrison W. Doty
SD Fuchsia Society

• Crown of Thorns

THE clear, bright red bracts of Crown of Thorns (*above*) are one of the delights of the cool weather scene. Although it may bloom through most of the year, the long-stalked flower clusters are most abundant in winter.

This relative of the poinsettia is *Euphorbia splendens,* a native of Madagascar. It is a sprawling or climbing shrub to about three feet, with arching stems and vicious thorns about one inch long. The sparse leaves (stems are sometimes leafless), of an almost transparent green, are thin and oblong, from one to two inches long. Cut stems emit the milky juice characteristic of the family.

Crown of Thorns is popular as a container plant, especially on a lath house shelf, where its unusual conformation and brilliant blooms may be enjoyed without thorny complications.

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Did you miss the 10-page spread on Presidio Park in the June-July issue of CALIFORNIA GARDEN? In a guided "plant tour," Chauncy Jerabek locates and describes 101 trees and shrubs; Alice Clark's playful map of the Park is keyed to the text for easy touring, whether in your armchair or on the ground.

This issue is available again at the Gift Shop in Sierra Museum at Presidio Park. Pick up a copy soon.

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Grace and openness typify *Poinciana gilliesi,* as used beside a lily pool in the Point Loma garden of Mrs. John H. Fox by Roland S. Hoyt, A.S.L.A.

Poinciana

. . . good tree for a small space

IN selecting a tree for a small space, consider the virtues of *Poinciana gilliesi.* Moderate growth, open, delicate form, fern-like foliage, and spectacular flowers made this evergreen member of the Pea family a good candidate for a place in Southern California gardens.

A further value, not readily apparent, is illustrated by poinciana's high priority on the list of plant materials for the soil erosion control project under consideration by the City of San Diego. This project aims at permanent stabilization of accumulating dirt fills caused by subdividing.

A mature tree will seldom be over ten feet tall. Slender, somewhat straggling branches are lightly covered with alternate, twice-compound leaves. Leaflets, numerous and small, are arranged in pairs without an odd one at the end.

The flowers, which appear in quantity throughout the summer, are bright yellow, made up of five broad, slightly unequal petals, and protruding red stamens four to five inches long. These showy blooms have earned poinciana the popular name of Bird-of-Paradise Bush. It is sometimes offered in nurseries as *Caesalpinia gilliesi.*

Though it is reasonably tolerant of poor soils, plant it in light, well-drained soil for best results and give it periodic deep irrigation. Avoid surface watering through the summer to anticipate and forestall the tendency, under garden conditions, to surface rooting and weakness at the crown which may result in the plant's toppling over in the wind on a wet winter day. For a stronger plant, try to get along without staking.

Snail bait can kill dogs, the State Department of Agriculture warns. Gardeners are cautioned against putting bait containing metaldehyde where dogs can reach it.

Metaldehyde products are marked "poison," but do not bear the "skull and crossbones" warning found on those containing arsenic.

The Department states that some dogs are attracted by the odor of metaldehyde.

NATURE'S NOOK

. . . Sidelights

on the world of plants

Poinsettias

By Donald Betts

THE POINSETTIA is truly our Christmas flower for three solid reasons that I know of. It blooms beautifully right at Christmas time. It does exceptionally well in the San Diego area, both indoors and out. And it is grown for commercial purposes here in our home county much more extensively than in any other place in the world.

This remarkable plant, a native of Old Mexico, was introduced to the world generally in the 1820s and '30s, and was named for Dr. Joel Poinsett, an early-day physician of Charleston, South Carolina, who served as U.S. Minister to Mexico, and discovered the plant there in 1828. Its botanical name is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*; it is a member of the Spurge family.

There are two particularly interesting things about this colorful plant. First, the brilliant parts of the plant, which make it so attractive and so famous, and which are thought of generally as flowers, are not really flowers at all. They are greatly modified and enlarged bracts. With most plants, the bracts are tiny, unimportant attachments at the base of the flower petals. But in the case of poinsettias, the bracts are greatly enlarged and charged with rich color, red, pink, cream, or white, while the actual flowers are inconspicuous, roundish forms set in the center of the cluster of vivid bracts.

Second, the poinsettia is what is known as a short-day plant. Some plants are stimulated into flower formation by the lengthening of the daylight hours, while others may be stimulated to this activity by a shortening of the hours of light in each day, and a great many others are not affected one way or the other. The poinsettia falls into the second category.

And that, of course, is why it comes into bloom for us about Christmas time. In our hemisphere, at our latitude, from about October 10th to October 20th the days begin to grow short enough to cause the initiation of flower buds on the poinsettia plant. That is to say, when the length of day is just slightly more than twelve hours. Once the buds are initiated, they continue to grow, with proper care, until the flowers and bracts have unfolded in December and January. Thus they come forward in all their bright glory to meet Santa Claus at the appointed time.

Thus also, this beautiful plant unfolds its treasures at the close of each old year and the beginning of each new one. We may surely say, therefore, that it is a flower well representing our annual renewal of faith and hope.

At least, it is so for me. Years ago, at a period of deep spiritual depression, I was on the verge of taking a most negative turn in my life. But I went to see an old friend and told him of my somber thoughts. When I fell silent at last, he studied me for a long moment. Then, without a word, he got up, went out to his greenhouse, and came back with two poinsettias, a red one and a white one, in either hand. He gave them to me, and said, "Here. Take these." I took them, thanked him briefly, and left. I put them in my windows when I got home and looked at them. There was something about those lovely plants, and the silent giving of them to me by my friend, that meant more and went deeper than a million words of advice could have done.

I LOOKED at those bright bracts often as the days went by, and thought of my friend's simple, kindly gesture. In time my fit of depression passed. The negative turn my life was about to take did not occur. I came out of my spiritual tailspin.

And so, ever since those distant days, the poinsettia has always been for me a true symbol of the renewal of hope and of faith in life. And without a doubt that is one reason why I feel so strongly that this bright, brave, and cheery plant is indeed our Christmas flower.

Personally, I can think of no better reason. Can you?

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Potpourri

. . . people, places, products in the news

• All Aboard

The San Diego Floral Association will present its second annual "Christmas Lights Bus Tour" on Thursday, December 21. Buses will tour San Diego, Point Loma, and Chula Vista to afford riders a view of outstanding seasonal decorations. Through the cooperation of the San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce, tour planners will be able to include the winners of home decorations contests sponsored by those organizations.

The bus tour was originated last year by Miss Alice Greer and Mrs. William E. Betts, Jr. Miss Greer is chairman of this year's tour.

Buses will begin loading at 7 p.m. at 6th and Laurel and will depart as they are filled. The last bus will leave not later than 7:30 p.m. Each bus will carry a guide who is familiar with the route.

Tickets are $1.50 each. Reservations may be made by calling the following:
Miss Greer— CY 6-2267
Mrs. Betts — AC 3-7259
Mrs. Lester Crowder — CY 5-5871
Floral Association Bldg. — BE 2-5762
Mail orders should be addressed to Bus Tour, San Diego Floral Association, Balboa Park, San Diego 1. Tickets will be sent by return mail.

• Much Redwood

A 2500-pound redwood round is on exhibit in the botany division at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Cut from a 654-year-old Coast redwood *(Sequoia sempervirens)* in Humboldt Redwood State Park, the exhibit is 21 inches thick and 75 inches in diameter.

• Blooming Balboa Park

December

Mall—Salvia
Organ—Bird of Paradise, Poinsettias
House of Pacific Relations—Bird of Paradise
Prado—Begonias, Camellias
Formal—Stock
Botanical Building—Poinsettias

January

Prado—Begonias, Camellias
Rear of House of Hospitality—Camellias
Formal—Stock, Calendula

• Memorial Garden

The memory of Mrs. Noel P. Lapham will be perpetuated at Quail Gardens, Encinitas, by construction of the Grace Lapham Memorial Sheltered Garden. Mrs. Lapham, a member of a pioneer San Diego family and a Founder Member of the Quail Gardens Foundation, died on October 14, 1961, at age sixty. The idea of the memorial arose from the desire of Mrs. Lapham's friends to create something lasting in her memory.

The proposed garden structure will be 150 feet square, with plastic net covering and vertical louvered sides.

Anyone wishing to help with the memorial may send contributions to Mrs. A. R. Hogan, 601 North Granados St., Solana Beach, California.

• New Garden Club

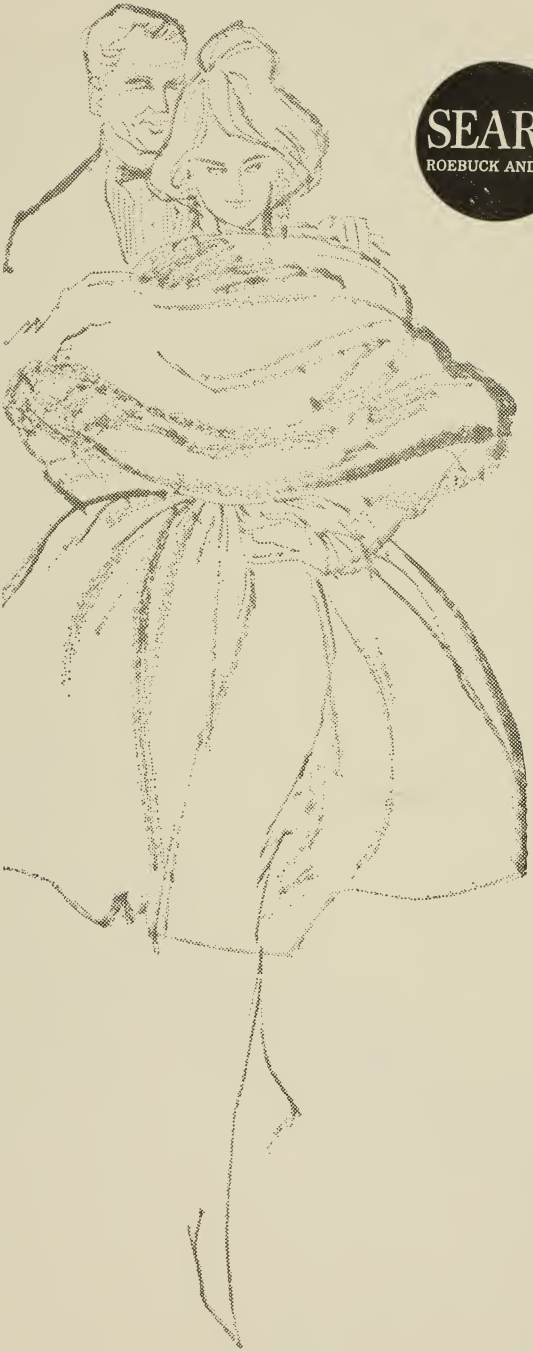
The latest addition to garden club ranks in San Diego is the Civic Center Garden Club. Organization resulted from the interest of City and County employees in the Civic Center garden tours (weekly: Thursday noon). James Saraceno is president. The group is affiliated with the San Diego Floral Association.

• Rosarians Dig

The San Diego Rose Society is assisting in the care and development of the Balboa Park Rose Garden north of the Natural History Museum. Each of four committees of three members works in the garden one Wednesday per month, and two members work on alternate Saturdays. To date they have concentrated on maintenance chores, but the Society will enlarge its efforts when the bed along the north border of the garden is put under its care. Mrs. Clarence Benson is project chairman.

• Foliar Feeding

Foliar Feeding, A Milestone in Plant Nutrition, has been published by Ra-Pid-Gro Corporation. The 16-page pamphlet contains extracts from testimony before the Research and Development Subcommittee of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. To obtain a copy write Ra-Pid-Gro Corp., Dansville, N.Y.



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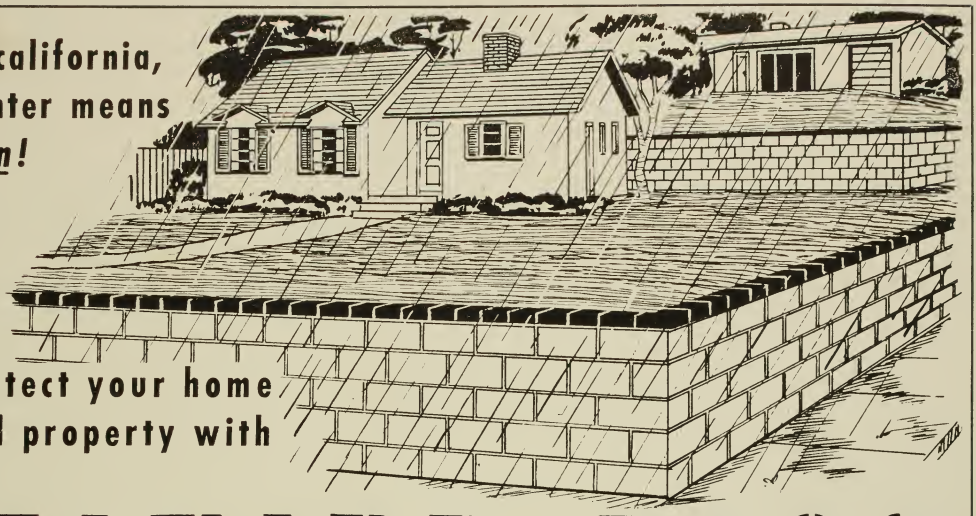

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